

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this Application, prior to entry of this Amendment. By this Amendment, Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 14 are canceled and Claims 3, 6 and 15 are amended, without prejudice or disclaimer, to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention.

In the March 29, 2005 Office Action ("the Office Action"), the Examiner rejected Claims 1, 4 and 14 as unpatentable as obvious over U.S. Patent No. 5,181,255 to Bloomberg ("the '255 Patent") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,567,548 to Nathan et al. ("the '548 Patent") and Claims 2 and 5 as unpatentable as obvious over the '255 Patent in view of the '548 Patent and U.S. Patent No. 6,043,823 to Kodaira et al. ("the '823 Patent"). In addition, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 2 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as his invention. Finally, the Examiner allowed Claims 7-13 and indicated that Claims 6 and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

By this Amendment, Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 14 are canceled, and Claims 3, 6 and 15 have been rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. All of the now-pending claims, after entry of the current amendment, have been deemed allowable by the Examiner, except for Claim 3. Claim 3 as rewritten does not include the language in Claim 1 that was the basis of the § 112, ¶ 2 rejection. Since the Examiner indicated in the previous Office Action that Claim 3 (as dependent on Claims 1 and 2 before amendment) would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim, Applicants believe that Claim 3 is also in condition for allowance.

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As a result Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and request the allowance of Claims 3, 6-13 and 15. No fees or extensions of time are believed to be necessary for the entry of this Amendment. However, authorization is given hereby to charge any extension of time fees necessary to preserve the pendency of the subject application to Deposit Account No. 01-1785.

Respectfully submitted

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